Theme Area: Water Resources

Program Area: Social and Economics

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Project Title: Economic Nonuse Value Associated With Wildlife Habitat

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Abstract: The objective of this research project is to quantify the public's economic value for preserving wildlife habitat used by migratory birds stretching north to south across the central United States. This habitat is found mostly along major river corridors, such as the Rio Grande in New Mexico/Texas and the Platte River in Colorado/Wyoming/Nebraska. Much of this habitat is affected by operations of Reclamation reservoirs. Given these flyways cross state lines, and many of the impacted species are threatened or endangered, the affected public is national in scope. Therefore, this study will focus on determining national benefits as opposed to localized regional impacts. This project is partnering with an interdisciplinary group from the Institute for Public Policy (IPP), University of New Mexico.